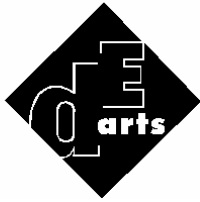


**Delaware Division  
of the Arts**



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## **News Release: For Immediate Release**

### **DELAWARE DIVISION OF THE ARTS ANNOUNCES POETRY OUT LOUD CONTEST WINNERS**

#### **Poetry Out Loud State Winner Announced**

(Wilmington, DE) —April 12, 2006. Simone Seal, a senior from Padua Academy, won Delaware's *Poetry Out Loud* state competition on April 11, 2006 held at the Schwartz Center for the Arts in Dover. Reciting "Still I Rise," by Maya Angelou" and "Bitch" by Carolyn Kizer she received the top score from the judges for her ability to convey the meaning of her selected poems. She will go on to the national competition in Washington, D.C. along with students representing every other state.

Governor Ruth Ann Minner spoke about the importance of poetry and its role in education and presented the awards to the winning students. Poet Laureate Fleda Brown, who served as one of the judges, told the students that "learning by heart someone else's words takes us inside that person's mind, and out of our own mind far enough to stretch our sense of what's possible." The students selected and memorized poems ranging from Shakespeare to Langston Hughes, and with drama and emotion, the students brought the poets' words to life.

Two other students were also recognized for their performances. Ashley Douglas, a senior from Concord High School was first runner-up and Erin Winner, a junior from Cab Calloway School for the Arts was second runner-up.

**-more-**

## **POETRY OUT LOUD**

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This was the first year for this program created by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation, in cooperation with the fifty state arts agencies, to encourage high school students to memorize and perform great poems. Each winner at the state level receives \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington to compete for the national championship. The state winner's school receives a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The runner-up in each state receives \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library. The Poetry Foundation will be awarding \$50,000 total in scholarships and school stipends at the National Finals, with at least a \$20,000 college scholarship for the Poetry Out Loud National Champion.

Please see attached photographs.

The Delaware Division of the Arts (DDOA), a branch of the Delaware Department of State, is dedicated to promoting and developing the arts throughout the state. Together with its advisory body, the Delaware State Arts Council (DSAC), the Division administers grants and programs that support arts programming, educate the public, increase awareness of the arts, and integrate the arts into all facets of Delaware life.